

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2008

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

- Mayor Lin called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. All council members were in attendance: Bhardwaj, Ratzlaff, Lin, Binnie, Fulkerson.
- City Staff in attendance: City Manager Steve Albright, City Clerk Gabriel Adams, and City Attorney Paul Hagen, Police Chief Ken Thrailkill.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

IV. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*Motion (Fulkerson/Binnie) to approve the agenda as amended. **Passed unanimously.***

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 08, 2008, 2008 cc

*Motion (Fulkerson/Binnie) to approve the minutes as corrected. **Passed unanimously.***

VII. COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Binnie - Parks and Recreation, Streets

Public Works: Noted various Town Hall improvements that were made over the past week including; wall mounted thermostat, new siding on east facing wall, new light fixture for deck, and sliding window in public restroom.

Bhardwaj – Health & Human Services, Planning

Planning: October Planning Commission meeting update.

Lin – Water, Town Hall - Nothing to report.

Fulkerson – Public Safety – Thanked Council and staff for successful Public Works projects.

Ratzlaff – Finance – Thanked City Manager for discussing various budget concerns with him.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

City Manager – Albright: Highlighted various items from the CM staff report in the meeting packet.

City Attorney – Hagen: Sent Council information on assembly bill regarding ethics training.

Police Chief – Thrailkill – 1. PD is having a difficult time recruiting a new police officer. 2. Completed an investigation on Gunderson regarding evidence recovered from Blue Lake evidence storage related to his time in Trinidad. The report has been filed with the DA. 3. Loose pitbulls recently threatened multiple residents and their pets recently. They are extremely dangerous, and should be approached with caution.

City Clerk – Adams: Thanked Mayor Lin for his years of service and dedication to the city and wished him luck in future endeavors.

IX. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

(Three (3) minute limit per Speaker unless Council approves request for extended time.)

No items from the floor were presented.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Staff Activities Report through September, 2008
2. Financial Status Report through September, 2008
3. Proclamation 2008-04 Recognizing the Great American Smokeout.

*Motion (Bhardwaj/Ratzlaff) to approve the consent agenda. **Passed unanimously.***

XI. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Presentation on Health Impact Assessments – Dr. Ann Lindsay.
Councilmember Fulkerson introduced Dr. Ann Lindsay, the Humboldt County Health Officer. Ms. Lindsay has worked cooperatively with the Humboldt County Planning Department on a “health impacts assessment” of each of the 3 general plan alternatives being considered by the County.

Dr. Lindsay explained that the health assessments are comparable to an environmental impact report’s assessment of impacts to the environment, but instead they attempt to evaluate the general plan’s potential impacts on public health. The assessment is done on the densities proposed in the Land Use Element of the General Plan.

Council and public comments primarily focused on transportation issues, and thanked Dr. Lindsay for her time.

No decision was made.

2. Resolution 2008-23 Authorizing the Submittal of a Grant Application to the US Fish & Wildlife service in support of the Trinidad Pier Reconstruction.

City Manager Albright explained that earlier this year the Trinidad Rancheria was invited by the US Fish and Wildlife Service to compete for grant funding regarding the reconstruction of the Trinidad Pier. The grant is from the Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) program.

Albright introduced Trinidad Rancheria representative Greg Nesty. Nesty explained that after completing and submitting a grant application, the Rancheria was alerted that a recognized American Indian Tribe is not an eligible applicant. The City of Trinidad would be an eligible applicant, and to accomplish the project (if funded) the City could contract with the Rancheria for grant implementation.

Albright noted that in an effort to cooperate with the Rancheria and to affect the reconstruction of the pier, which is important to the economic health of the City and its residents, it will be in the City’s interest to see this project funded. The City should require of the Rancheria several assurances:

1. Any matching funds be the responsibility of the Rancheria;
2. Any work required of City staff be fully reimbursed (documented time and materials costs);
3. The Rancheria provide to the City a hold harmless agreement for any potential legal or other liabilities associated with this grant;
4. The Rancheria meet any other requirements of the grant implementation that would normally be applied to the grantee (in this case the City of Trinidad); and
5. The Rancheria be willing to enter into a contract with the City of Trinidad that stipulates all of these conditions.

There was no public comment.

*Motion (Binnie/Fulkerson) to approve Resolution 2008-23 authorizing the submittal of the grant application with conditions listed above. **Passed unanimously.***

3. Presentation on Water Treatment Plant Requirements.

City Manager Albright explained that the State of California periodically changes the requirements placed on municipal water providers for drinking water quality. Those requirements on water treatment standards create an ongoing challenge to water purveyors to provide safe drinking to their customers.

Albright introduced Water Plant Operator Bryan Buckman. Buckman prepared an evaluation of some of the upcoming requirements that will have to be met by the City of Trinidad's Water Department for Council consideration. The report was included in the Council meeting packet.

In summary, Buckman explained that the State Department of Health Services recently required that public surface water treatment systems test for microbial pathogens such as Cryptosporidium. The results of the test are based on an annual average, beginning October 2008. The test results (at the conclusion of 1 year) will determine what additional level of treatment, if any will be required. Buckman recommended that the Council consider "when", as well as "if" an additional \$8500 should be spent studying the Membrane Technology as suggested by Winzler & Kelly Engineers.

Public comment included:

Jim Cuthbertson – Trinidad Area resident

We should have connected to Humboldt Bay Municipal Water System years ago when we had the chance. It is the Council's job to hear from as many credible sources before drawing conclusions. You should base your decisions on good information and sources.

Mike Morgan – Trinidad

What will we get for \$8500? I'm not opposed to the study, but why should we pay W&K to research something they already know?

Sungnome Madrone – Fox Farm resident.

All these regulations will be dictated by Sacramento, and energy reduction will likely be another layer of regulation in 2-5 years. We need to consider energy consumption and water quality at the same time – the standards will just keep getting tighter. The only way to stay ahead of the curve is to tap *cleaner* water, not design big systems to clean *dirty* water. The current treatment plant setting isn't able to process the byproducts of membrane technology. In October I proposed to the Council an alternative solution involving drilling wells in the upper Luffenholtz Creek Watershed and using hydropower captured by water flowing downhill to pump treated water through the distribution system. I would like the Council to consider my proposal before spending money on the membrane system, and allow me the opportunity to discuss it with the Engineers. I will lay out a report of the pros & cons and have it prepared by the December meeting. The City Council should consider all the alternatives.

Council comment included:

Fulkerson: This is a great government case study. I agree that we should look at all the alternatives before engineering another big system. The Arcata Marsh project was the product of a similar debate. In the end, the low-tech solution turned out to be a world class project.

Lin: It will be difficult to change course after making such a large investment in the current system. The best we can do is to listen to staff and consultants and base our decisions on the information they provide. **Bhardwaj** agreed with Lin and Fulkerson.

No decision was made.

4. FY09 Budget Update

City Manager Albright explained that when the FY09 Budget was approved by the Council in June, 2008, it was planned to have a budget amendment in September that would take into account the carry-forward fund balances from FY09 and other changing situations. Due to the transition to a new financial consulting firm, it has been difficult to get timely and complete financial reports and to make the revisions to the budget format that would enable an accurate and dependable budget revision.

Until the budget amendment can be completed and presented to the City Council (in December or January), in its place staff has been giving a budget status update report. An oral/visual report was presented to the Council at the meeting.

No decision was made.

XII. COUNCIL REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting ended at 10:00pm.

Submitted by:

Gabriel Adams
City Clerk

Approved by:

Chi-Wei Lin
Mayor